

FWP R2 CAC Meeting

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, December 3, 2008
LOCATION: FWP Region 2 Headquarters, Missoula
TIME: 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

In Attendance - Tim Aldrich, Louie Bouma, Todd Frank, Edward Hebbe III, Charlie Johnson, Rich Lane, Chris Marchion, Pat O'Herren, Jim Olson, Ray Rugg, Stephanie Strickland, Jaala Wickman

Absent – Chad Bauer, John Manley, Margaret Moddison, Jack Reneau,

Staff - Mack Long, Vivaca Crowser, Jeff Darrah, Pat Saffel, Ginny Schmautz, Dianne Schmautz, Mike Thompson

Guests – Carolyn Byrd, TNC

OPENING REMARKS – Mack Long

Mack Long opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, and introducing the guest speaker, Carolyn Byrd, from The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

MONTANA LEGACY PROJECT – Carolyn Byrd, TNC

Brief Description:

1. Discussion on how to preserve Plum Creek Timber Company (PCTC) lands that are coming onto the real estate market.
2. FWP identified access, habitat and linkage priorities.
3. TNC and the Trust For Public Lands (TPL) worked to acquire the identified land.
4. TNC has an option for and additional 312,000 acres near Libby that will be purchased in installments over the next three years for \$510 million. In the Blackfoot 89,000 acres have been purchased since 2003 for \$70 million.
5. TPL has also purchased 80,000 acres in the Swan.

Senator Baucus inserted \$250 million in the Farm Bill that is available as Forest Conservation Bonds in order to convert private land into public land managed by the Forest Service. TNC and TPL in a combined effort were the only applicants and have received a letter from the U. S. Treasury stipulating that they will receive the money.

A contract was signed with PCTC in June 2008.

Goals:

1. Habitat Preservation (connectivity & resources)
2. Public Access
3. Maintain timberland production.

A map was provided that showed which lands would become State Lands, and which would become Forest Service lands. Funding sources were described and discussed. PCTC is reserving the right to harvest timber for the next 10 years at the rate of 11 million board feet for four years and then dropping to 8 million board feet for the following six years.

Management Plan Recap:

1. Forest Service to take over management of non-State Lands
2. Supply timber while maintaining the resource with fisheries being a big issue.
3. TNC will continue to pay property taxes in Missoula County.
4. Mineral County is concerned about losing tax base if the land goes into Federal management.
5. Properties not available in the Swan at the time of the federal application will go to the Forest Service at a later date.
6. Reserves for community purposes and maintain wildlife corridors.
7. The PCTC cost-share road agreement with the Forest Service will go to TNC.

The Fish Creek lands on the Idaho side of the border will be picked up by Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

Some PCTC high value wildlife lands were not for sales because they are core timberlands close to mills.

NOTE: TNC is looking for input from the CAC on more key areas to preserve for access and habitat that they might not yet be aware of.

Further discussion of Legacy funding sources was held.

TNC is also looking for more venues for the Legacy Project presentation. Montana Bowhunter Association, Trout Unlimited, and the Wildlife Federation were all suggested.

LEGISLATION - Nine pieces of legislation have been condensed down to three.

1. Private Land/Public Wildlife (PL/PW) – Has a placeholder.
2. Mandatory Trapper Education
 - Identical to 2007 except no fiscal note attached.
 - Grandfather in with existing trapper's license
 - Predator trapping does not require a license, class is not mandatory
 - 2010 Effective date
 - A committee will develop a Montana manual similar to what the Montana Trappers Association (MTA) is using.
3. Add archery to lion hunting.
4. Recap of other legislation that may affect the Department.
5. 1200 bills were submitted on December 1st, the last day to submit.

A list of legislators in R2 was made available to the CAC members.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. The CAC recommended that the brochure describing trap-free areas for recreating with dogs be distributed to businesses such as Go Fetch, REI (and other hiking oriented stores), and veterinarians.
2. Request was made by Louie Bouma to send all legislative related information directly to

- the CAC members as it becomes available.
3. Serious discussion of bridge access bills.
 4. Archery Committee status report. Potentially the CAC could review and help tweak the 2009 regulations before taking it to constituents. May happen by our next meeting in February.
 5. Discussion of elk and deer harvest numbers in Region 2.
 6. Most common complaint the wardens hear about pertains to wolves and why can't we chase the elk off the private lands that are acting as reserves. Enforcement has made several good cases from really good TIP-Mont calls.
 7. Most of the fishing regulation changes went through. Some issues came up about some of the Fish Creek changes.

CAC PRIORITY LIST

1. Chris Marchion
 - Ranching for Wildlife. It does not work in Colorado and Utah.
 - Clean up on the Upper Clark Fork River above Drummond. Do we need a discussion on the settlement and concept of public involvement in the restoration projects?
2. Charlie Johnson
 - Access is important. Not in favor of PL/PW proposals.
 - Would like to see more containment of knapweed and other noxious weeds on the WMAs.
3. Tim Aldrich
 - Devote a meeting to Ken Hamlin's presentation of an elk/wolf study that shows the effects of brucellosis and the changing behavior of elk in the last 30 years.
 - Need to have a RRAFT Committee update to the CAC.
 - What is the future of our State Parks from a facility, development, and administration standpoint?
 - We need to meet the new Director, Joe Maurier and our Commissioner.
4. Pat O'Herren
 - Land Use Planning.
 - Development of lands currently open to the public. The number of lots in each new subdivision is on the rise.
5. Mack Long
 - Need an emphasis on Parks and Recreation.
6. Louie Bouma
 - Equal and fair distribution of special permits should be across the state.
7. Jaala Wickman
 - Wolves stay on the list. What are the local, state and federal government going to do about them? The wolves are affecting the elk herd populations in the Lolo National Forest.
 - We have seen dead calves, bulls, and deer obviously killed by wolves just lying around. Some partially consumed and some not.
 - We have been surrounded by wolves when out hunting. We could hear them howling all around us.

- How will wolves affect the future of hunting for our youth, for hunting itself and our economy if non-residents no longer come to hunt?
8. Ray Rugg
- We should cover mountain lions.
9. Ed Hebbe
- We should cover grizzly bears and black bears.
 - We used to see a lot of deer in one area, the wolves and mountain lions have moved in (lots of tracks), and now we don't see any deer.
 - We need to spend an entire meeting on wolves.
10. Stephanie Strickland
- Many down at Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) have seen the results of wolf kills. RMEF is currently rewriting their position statement on wolves.
11. Todd Frank
- A serious look needs to be taken at the fiscal cost. There is not enough money and that is the monetary reality. What will it look like in 10 years? A plan to accommodate future realities must be developed now.
12. Rich Lane
- Would like to see stewardship management of Douglas fir encroachment on south facing slopes that are winter.
 - Would like to see more forest stewardship contracts on state lands for beetle kills.
13. Mack Long
- FWP needs to spur the stewardship concept
 - BLM has nationwide mapping of beetle kills. It may be possible to bring in a presentation.

2009 MEETING SCHEDULE

February	Tuesday	February 3 rd
May	Wednesday	May 27 th
August	Wednesday	August 12 th
December	Wednesday	December 2 nd

Meeting adjourned at 10 PM.

Minutes Approved By:

Mack Long, Regional Supervisor

Date